

Briefly Told

The Fiume sensation is more like an ambitious romantic movie than a serious move in the affairs of nations. A description of what occurred when D'Annunzio came up to the city and was confronted by Gen. Pittaluga who was charged with its defense, is here given:

Pittaluga—"Thus you will ruin Italy."

D'Annunzio—"Rather you will ruin Italy if you oppose Fiume's destiny and support the infamous policy."

Pittaluga—"What, then, do you wish?"

D'Annunzio—"A free entry into Fiume."

Pittaluga—"I must obey orders."

D'Annunzio—"I understand you would fire upon your brethren? Fire first upon me!"

Pittaluga—"I am happy to meet you, brave soldier and great poet! With you I cry, 'Viva Fiume!'"

All forces together—"Viva Fiume!"

The Department of Labor figures food increases since 1914 as amounting to 80 per cent. The rise in some cities went as high as 125 per cent. It was lowest in the West and South.

Seven of the London Masonic lodges admit only total abstainers to membership, and numbers of others prohibit alcoholic refreshments on social occasions of the lodge.

It has been proved that the public will cheerfully shell out a dime for a one-cent apple. But the sale at low prices of army foodstuff made a slow getaway.

Thousands of tenants in all great centers of population are learning to their surprise and dismay that there are no laws to check the injustices forced upon them. It will not be surprising if out of this new knowledge a demand springs up that landlordism be brought under adequate legal control.

A newspaper observer at the National Industrial Conference voted that everybody was represented and splendidly organized—except The Public, "the poor, burden-bearing public."

A Philadelphia watchman calmly saw robbers steal a safe from the store next door the other night, but made no alarm because, as he said, he was paid only to watch his own store.

A flourishing industry newly arisen among Teutonic nobility and the military aristocracy, is the writing of books of memoirs. Formerly the most uncommunicative of classes, they are now the most voluble.

The Northern Aerial Syndicate of Great Britain is arranging a passenger airship service to the United States. The plans call for airships carrying 150 passengers, in addition to staffs of cooks, stewards, and crew, to serve the westward and eastward passages between England and New York. Perth, Australia, will also be served, seven days being allowed for this journey. At Liverpool, passengers from America will be transferred to smaller aircraft and taken to the destination. Moorings will be provided at leading hotels.

On three liners, sailing October 4, were 4,000 passengers, of whom 2,000 were Italians, Poles and Greeks returning home.

The red trousers which were formerly a part of French military uniform were introduced by Napoleon to encourage the cultivation of madder root, then the chief source of that color. Holland and Italy had monopolized the trade, until Napoleon, by changing the color of the soldiers' trousers, stimulated French interest in it. Then came the German chemical dye discoveries, and thereafter French trousers were colored with German dyes. And then came the war, and German dyes lost their monopoly.

Washington is no longer a model city. The rush of new growth has swamped it also. Its water reservoir has a capacity of 65,000,000 gallons, while the daily consumption for a year past has been 64,000,000 gallons.

It is now declared that the chief difference between the Allied commanders and Gen. Pershing was the latter's conviction that the German front could be broken. Allied generals believed the front would remain as it was until the end of the war. It was the American break through the lines that precipitated the general retreat which eventually brought the armistice.

The United States Chamber of Commerce is entertaining four commercial missions from Belgium, Italy, France and England.

The American Museum of Natural History leads the world in its habitat groups of mammals, birds and reptiles.

A former Royal Flying Corps member stole an aeroplane in Toronto. He left no trail when he faded into the sky, but the telegraph is faster than flight, and he was arrested at the first stop for fuel.

The heathen may teach us something after all. The Foochow Missionary Hospital, China, removed a large steel splinter from the eyeball of a native. One hundred dollars is the cost of such an operation, but the man was poor, and the fee was fixed at \$2. The native produced eighty cents, saying that two dollars for removing such a small piece of steel was entirely too much.

It takes from six months to a year to season the staves used in oil barrels.

Fiume, which D'Annunzio spectacularly took over as part of Italy, and thereby caused the collapse of an Italian ministry, defection in the army, and a crisis in the Paris council of powers, needs coal. It must pay from \$38 to \$40 a ton, cash in advance, if it purchases American coal, for the lowest price recently quoted was \$38.75 a ton, cash in exchange for documents in Philadelphia. And Fiume has not stable currency. It is believed there will be a shortage of coal in Fiume this winter. Perhaps even the D'Annunzio soul-fires will burn lower.

The upper chamber of the Riksdag of Sweden has passed a bill providing for an eight-hour working day, the lower chamber having recently passed the same bill.

Continuance of war-time passport regulations for one year to prevent influx of undesirable aliens was urged before the House Foreign Affairs Committee recently by Secretary of State Lansing and Representative Johnson, of Washington, chairman of the House Immigration Committee.

At a meeting held in London to demonstrate the utility of artificial limbs, the British Minister of Pensions admitted the superiority of American make.

Fourteen thousand members of the British Mercantile Marine gave up their lives in war.

During the recent severe forest fires in certain sections of the West, carrier pigeons were successfully employed to convey messages from fire fighters at the front.

Peppermint for oil is produced in Michigan and Indiana. The crop of 1919 has the estimate of 300,000 pounds of oil from 10,000 acres and marks another step in the continuous decline from 600,000 pounds from 18,000 acres in 1914. The average yield is about 30 pounds of oil an acre.

A fund of \$1,200 has been raised to fight rats in Palm Beach County, Fla. The rodents in that region have multiplied with such rapidity that some farmers fear seventy-five per cent of their potatoes and peanuts have been destroyed.

"We commented recently on the statement of Mr. Lansing that the secret agreements between France and England on the one hand and Japan on the other had been concealed from him when he entered into agreement with Japan, and were unknown at Washington when America entered the war. Exactly what American statesmen knew or suspected, or ought to have suspected, may be a matter of discussion. But we do not observe that there has been any explanation from our government of a silence which is regarded in America as the concealment of a material issue. It is of the first necessity to the maintenance of mutual trust between America and England that the action of our government should be fully explained. In the meanwhile an atmosphere of suspicion has arisen in America in which co-operation becomes difficult and any appeal to the League of Nations as a security is rendered hopeless."—Manchester Guardian.

The bicycle is popular as a means of cheap locomotion in Belgium. The flat country and the spirit of the people favor it. A certain American make is popular but impossible to obtain and the British makes are being absorbed rapidly. More than twelve thousand machines were imported by Belgium in 1913, the year before the war opened.

Seven million acres of wet lands have been reclaimed in the southern states.

According to official diplomatic reports ten million Germans and thousands of Austrians are awaiting an opportunity to leave their native countries. The majority wish to come to the United States, with Argentina, Chile and Peru as next choices. In view of this report it is interesting to note that the Labor program outlined in the Industrial Conference in Washington held out against immigration for at least two years and restriction of immigration in the future.

Admission Day in the state of Washington falls on Armistice Day, November 11.

James Whitcomb Riley's home on Lockerbie street, Indianapolis, has been acquired for \$8,500 with a view to creating a memorial there.

One of the strangest parades ever held in the United States was witnessed at Fort Sheridan. Every soldier was in a wheel chair.

The high school of Tacoma, Washington, has issued a direct challenge to the jazz craze of the day by installing a massive pipe organ.

It will cost young married couples four times as much to furnish their homes now as it would have cost before the war.

"The modern A-B-C: Always Be Careful."—Detroit Educational Bulletin.

Thomas Mott Osborne, famous prison reformer and sociologist, is now Lieut. Commander T. M. Osborne, commanding the Naval Prison, Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N. H. On the occasion of his 60th birthday the prisoners gave him a "smoker" in the "Y" of the prison.

"At Rome nearly all the shops are shut. Soldiers or policemen are on guard at the doors of those which are left open," writes a correspondent of Le Matin, Paris.

The Russian origin of much of America's labor trouble is indicated by the use of the word "pogrom" to describe the authorities' efforts to preserve law and order.

An educator estimates that for every week a child spends in school it thereby insures itself \$35.45 per week more than if it grew up uneducated. Study is worth \$5.00 a day to a child.

"A Little Book of Manners" published in Ireland contains a chapter on "Manners to Animals."

Elsie Janis began her theatrical career by a protest against cruelty to animals. She and her mother resigned from a theater where an "animal act" was in progress.

"The world suffers more from those who have hardening of the heart than from those who have softening of the brain."

A modern airship contains 20,000 parts, 60 miles of wire and 2,000,000 rivets.

TNT is described as a safer explosive than dynamite.

A plaster rowboat has been invented at Portland, Oregon. It weighs 400 pounds and is cheaper than a wooden one.

Millions of ducks are killed annually in China to supply the feather industry. In 1917 the exports of this article amounted to 7,083,333 pounds.

With the American housewife paying, if she can afford it, fifty to sixty cents a pound for lamb chops, it is interesting to note that there are 1,300,000 carcasses of lamb and mutton in storage in Australia. The meat export works of that country will be forced to suspend operations, because all the storage space available has been taken up and no shipping is available.

A painting of the arrival of the first American destroyers in British waters by Bernard F. Gribble, the English marine artist, titled "The Return of the Mayflower," has been purchased by the American Government.

Fifty per cent of the world's supply of zinc is produced in the United States.

A delegation representing colored organizations throughout the United States met in Washington and urged an appropriation of \$500,000 for the erection of a memorial to the colored soldiers of the Great War.

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